

In the specification:

Insert the paper copy of the Sequence Listing filed herewith following the Drawings.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 20 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Three primers were synthesized: P1, CCGCGG(N)₄ (SEQ ID NO:7); P2, GAATTC(N)₄ (SEQ ID NO:8); and P3, GCTTGCTCTGTCTC(T)₂₀ (SEQ ID NO:9). Each of the 4 N's in P1 and P2 was a mixture of A, T, C, and G in equal ratios. Serum DNA of patient-L was extracted using a previously published method (Yeh et al. (2000) Hepatology 31, 1318). PCR was performed using random hexamers for 25 cycles and then any two of P1-3 primers. The resulting products were cloned into a vector, pCR2.1-TOPO (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA).